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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT High Standard of Living for Sailors/Typical Prices at  
Popular Restaurants and Cafes in Stettin

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DATE DISTR. 26 Feb 1953

50X1-HUM

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

1. "Sailors are among the most well-to-do citizens in Poland. The average monthly salary of even a junior sailor is 800 zl. If a sailor knows how to speculate, one foreign voyage may bring his earnings up to 5000 zl.
2. "Accordingly, during their short stays on land, single sailors have the money to amuse themselves in a regal manner compared to the rest of the population. (The family men must take their earnings home to wife and children). It depends on the tastes of the sailors where they go. The educated, better-class sailors do not care for the public-houses in the harbour which cater simply for seamen. They seek out the best and most fashionable places.
3. "All the restaurants in Poland are state owned, and the State makes some efforts to please its clientele. In every town there are some restaurants which are more fashionable than others; the management panders to the snobbery of the new upper class by a faint display of luxury. The general standard is low nevertheless. The furniture and fittings are cheap and soon become soiled and worn out. After the initial efforts the cuisine deteriorates as well. A restaurant usually does not stay fashionable for more than one season. It gets closed down for a spell, renovated slightly, given a new management and reopened under another name.
4. "The best restaurants in Stettin are the 'Kameralna' on the Ulica Morska (now Aleja Piastow), 'Orbis', 'Zeglarska', and the 'Magnolia' near the central station and the Medical Academy. We often went to the 'Magnolia'. On entering such a restaurant one purchases a coupon for between 20-40 zl as a guarantee that one will not consume less than that amount. When the restaurant comes down in the world this coupon system is dropped. The coupons bar poorer patrons bent on spending a whole evening over one 'pol czarnej' (a small cup of black coffee). The table d'hote menu is usually not very good; the best food must be ordered a la carte. Drinks are 10 percent of the bill - at first class places even less - and added to the bill immediately, though the waiters cheat whenever possible. All of the waiters also speculate on the black market and most are UB agents. A party of three or four people in a first-class restaurant must reckon on paying about 400 zl for supper. At times we paid as much as

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1000 zl for four persons for the best food and drink. A la carte representative prices were as follows in October 1952:

A beefsteak with onions or a thick pork chop with sour cabbage, carrots, fried potatoes costs	12 zl
A vegetable soup	2 zl
A fruit compote	3 zl
Goose or duck with apples	25-30 zl
Venison (boar)	15 zl
Turkey	30 zl

Drinks cost as follows:

A 1/2 liter bottle of 'wiczniewka'	50-60 zl
1/4 l. of vodka	32-35 zl
1/2 l. of 'egg cognac'	(10-12 zl in the shops)
	70 zl
	(in shops 50 zl)
1/4 l. tangerine (mandarin) liqueur	80 zl
Wine is sold in 3/4 liter bottles and comes in two classes: 'familijne' and 'specialne'.	
'Familijne' costs	60 zl per bottle
	in a restaurant-45 zl in
	1951 (in shops 35 zl)
	35-45 zl (11-15 zl
	in shops; 30 zl in
	restaurants in 1951)
'Miod Kaszubski'	60 zl in a
	restaurant (40 zl in shops)
Gronowe Polskie costs	70 zl
Zielonogorskie Gronowe Zagraniczne	140 zl (70-80 zl in
Vermouth Cinzano	1951)

The last two brands are not to be had in shops. The 'Magnolia' has already come down a little. It required coupons on week ends only during summer, 1952; in September the coupons were liquidated altogether.

5. "A second-class restaurant in Stettin is the 'Turistyczna' (formerly the 'Stoczniowa') in the cellar of the Wojewodska Rada Narodowa. It is a dark hole ('mordownia') with a bad orchestra. Worse still is the 'Kotwica' on Plac Zolnierza (formerly 'Marysenka' and popularly still called by that name). Many foreigners, particularly Swedes, go there.
6. "Other places in Stettin often frequented by seamen are the cafes with orchestras. Most popular are the 'Polonia', 'Robotnik' and 'PDT' (Powszechny Dom Towarowy) on Plac Zolnierza. The orchestra at the PDT is good and even plays mild jazz, rumbas, etc. The trouble is that young people and soldiers in uniform are not allowed to dance in modern Western fashion to these tunes, nor may anybody in uniform ever be caught drunk.
7. "People with small incomes who cannot afford expensive amusement have the following recreations: On Sunday mornings they go to Church but not too early because everybody wants to sleep late; then comes early dinner and an afternoon cinema if a Western film is being shown even if altered by the authorities, or to a cafe. A cup of mediocre coffee costs 4 zl and a pretty decent cake is 1.10 zl, so that the bill per person is about 6zl. Chocolate is not served in the cafes. It is a most expensive commodity. A small plain cake of bad chocolate costing 17-18 zl; a little box of filled chocolate 25-30 zl.
8. "Few people nowadays can afford to take a holiday away from their homes except when it is a reward at the State's expense. Seamen are among the few who can take holidays. They travel inland to visit their relatives in Warsaw or elsewhere. On these journeys they are very conspicuous owing to their clothes, and often trunks, of foreign origin, and are very often taken for Englishmen or Americans. Only the Western diplomats in Poland have the same kind of clothes. The seamen rather emphasize this peculiarity and try, when abroad, to buy things unobtainable in Poland, 'anoracks' and the like."

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